

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00669 051652Z

14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 ACDA-05 OPR-02 SSM-03 SCCT-01 EB-07 OMB-01

/078 W

----- 066476

R 051555Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6178

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 0669

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, EG

SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA CONTINUE TO HIGHLIGHT GOE TROUBLES

REF: DAMASCUS 0593

1. SUMMARY: SYRIAN MEDIA CONTINUE TO PUBLICIZE ALLEGED DEMONSTRATIONS IN EGYPT AGAINST GOE. PRESS CLAIMS THAT COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY ESTABLISHED TO INVESTIGATE EXCESSES OF NASSER ERA HAS CIA CONNECTION. EGYPT ACCUSED OF UNDERMINING BOYCOTT AGAINST ISRAEL THROUGH DISCUSSIONS WITH FORD MOTOR CO. IN ITS FERVOR, SYRIAN PRESS HAS CONVENIENTLY FORGOTTEN EGYPTIAN INTERFERENCE IN LOCAL AFFAIRS DURING NASSER'S HEYDAY; IT MAY ALSO BE REFLECTING SARG DISQUIET THAT SADAT MAY BE PLANNING MOVEMENT TOWARDS FURTHER SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

2. SYRIAN PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION CONTINUE TO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DAMASC 00669 051652Z

HIGHLIGHT ALLEGED DISTURBANCES TAKING PLACE IN EGYPT

AND INCREASINGLY CITE SADAT AS PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR EGYPT'S DIFFICULTIES. PRESS CLAIMED, AND RADIO-TV ECHOED, "EGYPTIAN REGIME TRYING TO COVER UP ITS CRIMES AGAINST CITIZENS WHO HAVE DENOUNCED DEFEATIST SINAI AGREEMENT." PRESS AGAIN REPORTED OCCURRENCE OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN EGYPTIAN CITIES, VILLAGES AND UNIVERSITIES. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE ABUSES OF NASSER ERA CHARACTERIZED AS "FORMATION OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO BRING TO TRIAL JULY 23 REVOLUTION REPRESENTED BY NASSER." EGYPTIAN MASSES HAVE ALLEGEDLY REACTED TO SUCH "LIES AND FALSIFICATION" BY FLOCKING TO VISIT TOMB OF LATE PRESIDENT. AL-THAWRAH NOTED THAT COMMITTEE FORMED AT TIME WHEN EGYPTIAN OFFICERS MEETING IN SINAI WITH ISRAELI OFFICERS "TO DISCUSS ESPIONAGE STATIONS." FEB. 5 PRESS CITED BEIRUTI WORLD NEWS AGENCY REPORT THAT COMMITTEE FORMED AS RESULT OF CIA LEAK TO ITS SYMPATHIZERS IN EGYPT "TO DETRACT ATTENTION OF EGYPTIAN PEOPLE FROM CRIME COMMITTED BY U.S. AGAINST ARAB CAUSE AT SECURITY COUNCIL."

3. ZEROING IN ON SADAT, FEB. 4 PRESS CAPTIONED "SADAT CONTINUES PLOTTING AGAINST ARAB CAUSE." ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE REPORTED SADAT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT GENEVA CONFERENCE COULD BE HELD WITHOUT SYRIA, AND SCORNEED SADAT'S CLAIM THAT HE HAD OBTAINED PLEDGES FROM U.S. TO RECOGNIZE PLO, CITING ISRAELI STATEMENT TO UNDERCUT HIS CLAIM.

4. FEB. 4 PRESS REPORTED DETENTION OF 12,000 EGYPTIANS IN PERIOD ONE WEEK, MAKING IT APPEAR THEY ARRESTED FOR ANTI-REGIME POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

5. SYRIAN PRESS HAS ALSO CHARGED THAT EGYPTIAN REGIME "UNDERMINING ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL." AS IF OPENING OF SUEZ CANAL TO ISRAELI GOODS AND PERMITTING PORT SAID TO BE USED BY FOREIGN CAPITALISTS PLANNING TO INFILTRATE GOODS INTO ISRAEL NOT ENOUGH, PRESS COMMENTED, EGYPTIAN MIN ECONOMY NOW STUDYING PROPOSAL BY FORD MOTOR CO. TO BUILD DOLLARS 150 MILLION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 DAMASC 00669 051652Z

TRACTOR FACTORY DESPITE ADMISSION BY COMPANY THAT IT HAS NOT ANNULLED EXISTING AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL FOR AUTO ASSEMBLY PLANT.

6. COLUMNIST CRITICIZED ATTEMPTS TO "DISTORT" NASSER'S IMAGE, AND CLAIMED THAT EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION BELONGED TO ARABS AND NOT EGYPT ALONE. ANOTHER DENOUNCED EGYPTIAN REGIME FOR ENCOURAGING "HYENA"

SUCH AS JALAL AL-DIN AL-HAMASMI, A MAN "ANXIOUS TO DIG TOMB OF NASSER AND BLINDED WITH HATRED AGAINST JULY 23 ACHIEVEMENTS," TO PUBLISH "CHEAP WRITINGS AGAINST NASSER." THIRD COLUMNIST CONCERNED THAT AFTER SIGNING OF SINAI ACCORD, "TRIAL OF NASSER AND REWRITING OF ARAB HISTORY," EGYPTIAN REGIME MAY TAKE STEPS TOWARD RECOGNIZING ISRAEL, ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH IT AND DESTROYING JULY 23 REVOLUTION UNLESS POPULAR PRESSURE FORCES REGIME TO "FREEZE" ITS ACTIVITY.

7. COMMENT: AS WE RECENTLY REMINDED ONE SYRIAN COMMENTATOR WHO WAS REMINISCING WARMLY ABOUT THE GLORIES OF EGYPTIAN ARABISM IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS UNDER NASSER, NASSER'S PAN-ARABISM USUALLY STRUCK SYRIANS AS INTERFERENCE IN THEIR LOCAL AFFAIRS. SYRIAN MEDIA SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN JUST HOW SOUR THE GOOD OLD DAYS SO OFTEN WERE FOR THEM. COLUMNIST'S COMMENT PARA 6 ABOUT "FREEZING" GOE ACTIVITY MAY EXPRESS SYRIAN DISQUIET THAT ANTI-SINAI AGREEMENT CAMPAIGN WAGED BY SARG HAS NOT SUCCEEDED IN PREVENTING EGYPT FROM CONTEMPLATING NEW MOVEMENT TOWARDS FURTHER SETTLEMENT OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PROBLEMS.
MURPHY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, BOYCOTTS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC00669
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760045-0157
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760280/aaaacsds.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 DAMASCUS 593
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <27 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN MEDIA CONTINUE TO HIGHLIGHT GOE TROUBLES
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EG, SY, XF, (NASSER, G A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006